

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 554

By Turner M

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint study committee on issues relating to workers' compensation.

WHEREAS, the enactment of workers' compensation reform legislation in 2004 occasioned significant changes in the delivery of workers' compensation benefits in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of those reforms has stimulated significant discussion of the need for both assessing the reform legislation and considering the desirability of making further changes to the system; and

WHEREAS, workers' compensation issues affect Tennessee workers and businesses and involve government, the legal profession, the courts, and the health care and insurance industries; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that there is hereby created a special joint study committee on workers' compensation, which shall undertake a thorough study of the current status of workers' compensation in Tennessee, the impact of the 2004 reform legislation, the use of mediation and alternative dispute resolution in the workers' compensation system, the use of independent medical examiners, the use of lists of medical providers as exclusive lists for obtaining medical care, the delivery of health care in the system in general, the use of safety committees in the system, the drug-free workplace program, and the use of collective bargaining agreements to agree to binding obligations and procedures in workers' compensation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall consist of five (5) members of the House of Representatives and five (5) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary to carry out its duties. The committee may conduct its meetings at such places and times as it deems necessary to carry out its work effectively.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the department of labor and workforce development and all other appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the committee on the request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations for state action, including any proposed legislation, to the Speaker of the House, the Speaker of the Senate, and the members of the House Consumer and Employee Affairs Committee and the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee of the One Hundred Fifth General Assembly no later than December 10, 2007, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.